

NC ECHO  
State Library of North Carolina  
4640 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4640  
Phone: (919) 807-7418

Editor: Kim Cumber



The first NC ECHO crew:  
(l-r) Scott Reavis, Project Librarian;  
Kevin Cherry, Project Manager;  
Kim Cumber, Project Archivist; and  
Molly Rutter, Office Assistant



Donna Baker, the second Project  
Librarian, at the Battleship North  
Carolina survey site visit

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# Newsletter

## From the Project Archivist/Coordinator

North Carolina ECHO (Exploring Cultural Heritage Online) is about to accomplish one of its initial major goals--the completion of its survey of all North Carolina cultural institutions.

Since early 2001, an NC ECHO project archivist and project librarian have been crisscrossing the state conducting a detailed statistical, opinion, and needs assessment survey of cultural heritage and special collections institutions. What began on the morning of March 6, 2001, with a site visit to the local history and genealogy room of the Davie County Public Library in Mocksville will conclude on December 8th of this year with a site visit to the Rosenzweig Museum and Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina in Durham.

Over the course of these several years, NC ECHO has met well over two thousand dedicated cultural heritage professionals, volunteers, and enthusiasts in nearly 900 institutions and organizations throughout the state and has created a searchable online directory of these places as well as a searchable online data

base of their web resources.

The project has expanded to include a vigorous continuing education program responding to many of the needs found to exist in North Carolina's cultural heritage community, has grown to include a meta-data coordinator to help facilitate interoperability between institutions' online resources, and has through the State Library's LSTA grant programs funded over thirty digitization projects in North Carolina libraries and collaborative partner institutions.

With the culmination of the survey, a detailed statistical analysis and report will be possible that can detail the past accomplishments, present conditions, and future needs of the state's cultural heritage community. Also with the survey's end, NC ECHO can concentrate more time and energies towards education and training addressing the needs discovered in the survey and on metadata harvesting, aggregated searching, and growing concerns over digital preservation.

Of course, time will not stand still with the end of NC ECHO's survey and will not remain static regarding the state's cultural



Volunteer Nancy Murphy (l) and Local History Librarian  
Doris Frye during NC ECHO's first survey site visit—  
Davie County Public Library in Mocksville

heritage and special collection organizations and institutions. It will remain an important aspect of NC ECHO's work to continue to canvass the state for new institutions and to remain in close contact with existing ones--always keeping the information in the NC ECHO web portal current and timely and encouraging communication between the project and the state's cultural institutions and facilitating communication and collaboration within the cultural heritage community in North Carolina and beyond.

NC ECHO is your partner. As we plan for the next phase of our project, please let us know how we can best help you.

Kim Andersen Cumber

**“An Opening Archives project in Florida for consortial EAD training and implementation has adopted NCEAD’s model for workshops as well as our Best Practice Guidelines.”**

## Staff Notes



**Jackie Dean**

celebrated her one year anniversary as NC ECHO Project Librarian this month by doing site visits in Durham County with Kim Cumber!



**Peter Hymas**

a recent graduate of the SILS program at UNC-CH joined the NC ECHO team as an intern in October and is helping us analyze and effectively structure our NC ECHO survey data.

## Metadata Matters

It was a busy fall in the metadata world of NC ECHO! This fall I worked in collaboration with Dr. Paul Solomon of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Solomon and I co-taught a course called “Practical Metadata” that analyzed metadata contributed by NC ECHO partner institutions to begin unraveling the issues that we will confront in constructing a distributed search solution. Six students constructed crosswalks, converted data, and conducted test searches on the data set. Contributing institutions included the Manuscripts Department of UNC-CH, North Carolina State Archives, North Carolina Historic Sites, Charlotte Museum of History, North Carolina Museum of History, and Western Carolina University. *Documenting the American South* at UNC-CH and the University of North Carolina Charlotte also contributed metadata records, which will be used in the next phase of the project. NC ECHO is grateful to these institutions for contributing sample metadata records for this project.

The students did a great job of highlighting some of the issues we are facing in our distributed search solution. They constructed hypotheses for testing that covered topics of advanced versus simple searching, truncation, and a specific focus on the overall goal of testing representation based upon original metadata standards. All metadata records submitted were translated into a generalized indexing language, although each crosswalk was individual according to the standard used by the original institution. Some of the results focused on the quality of the data input into original metadata. The quality of metadata input into individual systems, therefore, will have real

implications on eventual participation in a distributed solution. Some basic suggestions include:

- Use controlled vocabularies for fields such as object name, subject or topical terms, personal, family, or corporate body names
- Use data standards for other fields, such as date (ISO 8601 standard) or Language (ISO 639-2b). These standards are being used in many different systems and should be adopted whenever possible.

- Do not use abbreviations in description. It is much easier to retrieve words when they are spelled out, and it will be much easier for end users to understand that description when they receive that record.

- Provide as much description as you can, as appropriate for the thing you are describing. The more detailed description there is, the easier it will be to retrieve it.

NC ECHO has been working towards creating community standards for the various metadata implementations used throughout the state. These include the NCEAD Best Practice Guidelines and NCEAD Implementation Guidelines. I am here to help in the implementation of these and other standards in metadata. But institutions also need to re-visit the quality of the information they input into their metadata standards. Input guidelines will help ensure consistency and quality metadata for each institution. I would be happy to review any input guidelines that an institution has or to help consult on the construction of these guidelines if you don't have them.

NCEAD has received an honor as well. An *Opening Archives*

project in Florida for consortial EAD training and implementation has adopted NCEAD's model for workshops as well as our Best Practice Guidelines. While the Florida consortium will adapt our standard to the needs of their community, it is quite complimentary that they believe in the way that North Carolina has done this work.

December is going to be a busy metadata month! The NCEAD project kicks off this month and more details for that will be forthcoming. The NCEAD Executive Committee also meets to set priorities for the coming year. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the NCEAD web site. Finally, the Museum Metadata Working Group has been reformed and will be analyzing the new standard *Cataloging Cultural Objects* to test its applicability for museum metadata content. In addition, NC ECHO is revamping their Online Collections and Exhibits database. A new implementation of Dublin Core has been constructed for the cataloging of the online collections and exhibits created by NC ECHO partner institutions. Early in 2006, this standard will be released through NC ECHO, and we encourage institutions to create compliant Dublin Core for the homepages of their online collections and exhibits. This metadata can then be directly input into the database to ensure access. In conjunction with this, NC ECHO is working on a notification protocol, so that when an institution has completed an online project, we can be sure to get that project into the database as soon as possible.

Metadata questions or comments? contact me! Katherine.wisser@duke.edu

## Spotlight

### UNC Greensboro University Archives & Manuscripts

#### *Star-Spangled Girls*

*Star-Spangled Girls* premiered on November 8, 2002, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A mixture of music and drama, entertainment and history, the play recognizes the unsung heroines of World War II—the women who served in the military.

The Women Veterans Historical Project was established by The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1998. Housed in University Archives & Manuscripts at Jackson Library, the project documents the contributions of women who served in the military by providing primary source material for students, faculty, researchers, and the general public.

An NC ECHO Digitization Grant, received in 2002, en-

abled us to create an extensive web site that continues to see heavy use. The site offers more than one hundred oral history transcripts, letters and diaries, and photographs to researchers. It also includes short audio clips of fourteen of the oral histories that describe service overseas.

While very pleased with the success of the web site, we wanted to reach other audiences with the story of these pioneering women. In September 2003, an NEH Consultation grant brought seven historians to UNCG to discuss the future direction of the project. From this meeting came the suggestion that a dramatic presentation based on the oral histories and manuscripts in the collection would have the potential to reach another audience.

At our request, Brenda Schleunes, founder and artistic director of the Touring Theater Ensemble of North Carolina, has produced such a play. From the words of

thirty-one veterans represented in the Women Veterans Historical Collection, she created five composite characters who meet twenty years after the war and reminisce about their military experiences. The play follows the women from recruitment and basic training through work assignments in the United States and overseas to the end of the war. Stories of love and adventure, patriotism and sacrifice, and loss and discrimination reveal how these “star-spangled girls” became pioneers in the women’s movement.

*Star-Spangled Girls* is currently available for booking across the state. Please contact Brenda Schleunes (bps@ttenc.org) if you want it to come to your town. For more information about the Women Veterans Historical Collection, please contact the University Archives at UNCG at (336) 334-4045.

Betty Carter  
University Archivist



The Touring Theater Ensemble of North Carolina performs *Star-Spangled Girls*.

## Mark Your Calendars

**December 8, 2005**

**Last NC ECHO Survey site visit — the Rosenzweig Foundation for Jewish Heritage Museum**

**December 12-14, 2005**

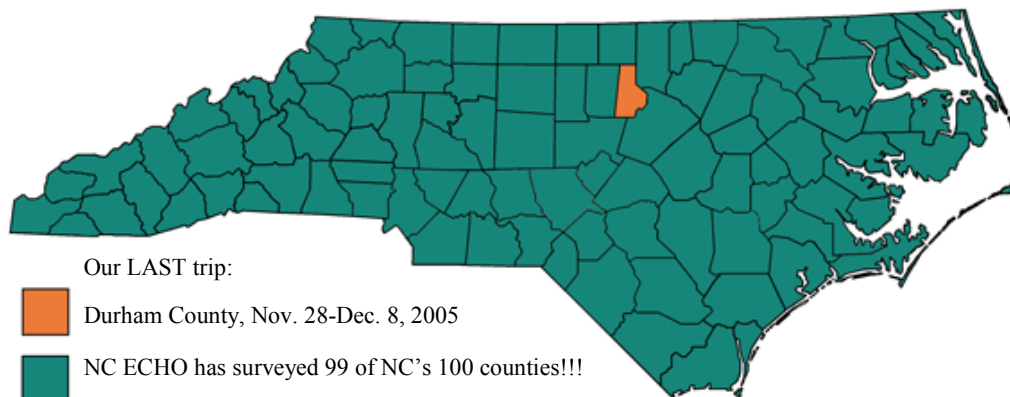
**Introduction to EAD Workshop, DPI Library, Raleigh**

**February 22, 2006**

**LSTA grant applications DUE to State Library**  
- NC ECHO Digitization Grants (approved LOI is mandatory prerequisite)  
- EZ NC ECHO Digitization Starter Grants  
- EZ Project Planning Grants

*See the NC ECHO website for more info*  
<http://www.ncecho.org>

## The Survey



## Newsletter

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State Library of North Carolina  
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Raleigh, NC 27699-4640

Phone: (919) 807-7422

E-mail: [ncecho@library.dcr.state.nc.us](mailto:ncecho@library.dcr.state.nc.us)

### NC ECHO Staff

Kim Andersen Cumber, Project Archivist/Coordinator  
Jackie Dean, Project Librarian  
Alma Woodard, Project Assistant  
Katherine M. Wissner, Metadata Coordinator

[www.ncecho.org](http://www.ncecho.org)

North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*, is the World Wide Web's doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Supported with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, this innovative project seeks to build a state-wide framework for digitization in order to facilitate comprehensive access to the holdings of North Carolina's cultural institutions.

**NC ECHO Project Vision** – All of North Carolina's cultural institutions work together to make the state's unique cultural and historical resources accessible for the education and enjoyment of people of all ages in the state, the nation, and the world.

**NC ECHO Project Purpose** – The NC ECHO portal provides a single point of entry for the citizens of North Carolina to the unique resources of North Carolina's cultural institutions in order to enhance education and learning.

**Criteria for Inclusion in the NC ECHO project** – Any cultural institution (library, archive, museum, historic site, or organization), which maintains a permanent, non-living collection of unique materials held for research and/or exhibit purposes and open for the use of the public will be surveyed. Denominational/associational collections will be surveyed, but individual church collections will not. Art museums will be surveyed but galleries will not. Zoos, arboreta, and parks will not be surveyed unless as a part of their mission they hold collections as described above.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment and opinion survey, site visits, consultations, workshops, and grant programs, NC ECHO encourages cooperation and collaboration among differing types of cultural institutions and among institutions of varying levels of technological and professional expertise. It is NC ECHO's belief that by working together North Carolina's cultural institutions can achieve greater successes and can do more good than they can by working alone.

## NC ECHO Advisory Committee

### Chair

Kevin Cherry, Visiting Lecturer, College of Education, Joyner Library, East Carolina University

### Members

Charles Brown, Director, Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County

Robert Busko, Director, Scotland County Memorial Library

Steve Hensen, Director, Planning and Project Development, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

Lynn Holdzkorn, Assistant Curator, Head of Technical Services, Wilson Library, UNC-CH

Martha Battle Jackson, Curator, North Carolina State Historic Sites, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Hal Keiner, University Archivist, Appalachian State University

Dick Lankford, State Archivist, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Druscie Simpson, Head of Information Technology, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Gerry Solomon, Assistant Section Chief, Evaluation Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Melissa Thibault, Director, Media Services, Learn North Carolina

Ann Tippet, Executive Director, Schiele Museum of natural History

Jonathan Wade, Fellow, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Helen Wykle, Special Collections Librarian, D. H. Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina – Asheville

### State Library Staff Members

Grant Pair, Assistant State Librarian for Information Technologies, State Library of North Carolina



Melissa Thibault (left) working with teachers Lyn McMillan and Diana Turner, NC ECHO-NCCAT seminar, 2003, Salter Path